

Iowa Youth Congress Member Bios

Central Region



Adhitya Ajith

Adhitya Ajith is a freshman at Timberline School in Waukee, Iowa. This is his first year participating in IYC. He is involved in many activities both in and out of school. Adhitya is an avid piano player and musician. He is also active in his school's leadership clubs, and was selected to be an Ambassador for his freshman year.



Ashley Xu

Ashley Xu is a senior at Ames High School. This is her first year in IYC. Ashley is an active member of the music community in Iowa, and has been studying classical piano for 12 years, as well as volunteering with local food pantries. She is also a member of Ames High School's student Ambassadors, mentoring and tutoring club for middle schools, Students Against Sexual Harassment club and was a member of the debate club. She plans on majoring in pre-med and plans to continue actively advocating for issues she is passionate about.



Benton Renaud

Benton Renaud is a senior at Ankeny Centennial High School. This is his first year as a member of IYC.

**Blake Van Der Kamp**

Blake Van Der Kamp is a senior at the PCM High School and is a first year member of IYC. Throughout High School he has been involved in FFA, NHS, SYBAC, and more. Following high school, Blake plans to major in Agriculture education and communications at Iowa State.

**Christopher Martin**

Christopher Martin is a 12-grader attending Ankeny Centennial High School. He will graduate from Des Moines Area Community College and Ankeny Centennial High School concurrently with an Honors Associates in Liberal Arts and a high school diploma in spring 2020. He plans to pursue a 4-year degree after graduation. This is his second year participating in Iowa Youth Congress where he enjoys networking with legislators, connecting with youth from across Iowa, learning more about state and local government, and participating in his community.

**Erik Nelson**

Erik Nelson is a senior at Ames High School. This is his first year as a member of Iowa Youth Congress and is excited to advocate and create change across Iowa. Erik is a leader of his school's Key Club, as well as a JV coach of the Quiz Bowl team. He plans to major in Computer Science at an undecided college.

Photo to Come Soon

Jamil Musignac

Jamil Musignac is a 9th grader at Johnston Middle School. This is his first year as a member of IYC. Jamil is involved in basketball at his school. In the future he plans to attend a college, but is not certain about his major but hopes to be a police officer or ethical hacker.



Jordyn Wagner

Jordyn Wagner is a senior at Waukee High School. This is her second year as a member of IYC. At her school she is President of International Club, President of Future Business Leaders of America and a Member of National Honors Society. She is currently undecided about her future plans, but plans to attend a 4 year college.



Julia Chen

Julia Chen is a junior at Johnston High School. This will be Julia's first year as a member of IYC. She is involved in many extracurricular activities such as Mock Trial, debate, National History Day, Tennis, Student Council, and National Honors Society. Outside of school, Julia plays flute and piano. She also enjoys online tutoring English to students in China. Julia is very passionate about playing the flute and has been selected to be in the All State Music Festival both her freshman and sophomore year. She has also won a competition at the Iowa Flute Festival. This past summer, Julia travels to Washington D.C. to compete at the national level for National History Day.

**Katlynn Long**

Katlynn Long is a senior from Creston Community High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC. She is also an officer for her school's FBLA chapter. After high school, Katlynn plans to attend a university to earn a public health degree.

**Kristen Stone**

Kristen Stone is a junior at Waukee Senior High School. This is her second year as an IYC member. In addition to her involvement in IYC she participates in Please Pass the Love, FIRST Tech Challenge, the Congressional App Challenge, track, and volunteering throughout the community. Currently Kristen's plan is to study Biomedical Engineering, but it has not been decided where she will attend college. Despite her busy schedule, Kristen has a passion to change the world and sincerely hopes you will join her!

Photo to Come Soon

Lilly Albright

Lilly Albright is a freshman at Roosevelt High School. This year is her first year as a member of IYC.

**Patience Koch**

Patience Koch is a freshman at Roosevelt High School. This year is her first year as a member of IYC.

Photo to Come Soon

Rachel Frost

Rachel Frost is a sophomore at Oskaloosa Public High School. This is her first year as an IYC member. At her school, she is the Class of 2022 President, Student Council Publicity Chair, and a leader of the Marching Indian's color guard. She also participates in football and wrestling cheer, dance, and track. In the future, Rachel hopes to study international relations and have a career in politics.

**Rebecca Scrivner**

Rebecca Scrivner is a high-school student at Iowa Connections Academy, an online public school. This is her first year as a member of IYC. In her free time, Rebecca enjoys quilting, reading, volunteering at the library, and spending time with her cat. She is a member of the Clarke County Piecemakers Quilting Guild and has spent six years in 4-H learning leadership, goal setting, and record keeping skills. After high school, Rebecca plans on becoming a forensic pathologist doctor.



Risha Shetye

Risha Shetye is a junior at Valley High School and this is her first year serving on IYC. Risha enjoys playing the violin and piano, swimming, and being on her school's debate team. Risha also loves to volunteer at the Iowa Lutheran Hospital, her local youth philanthropy board, and with local organizations that fight hunger insecurity. Risha is looking forward to serving on IYC and positively impacting the community.

Photo to Come Soon

Roland Onwona Aayeman

Roland Onwona Aayeman is a senior at Ankeny Centennial High School in Ankeny, Iowa. This is his first year with IYC. Apart from IYC, he is involved in many other activities. He is a member of UVoice: Youth Philanthropy Board in Des Moines. He is also apart of silver cord at his high school and has volunteers for more than 80 hours. Also at his high school, he is a member of National Spanish Honor Society and Spanish Club. Athletically, he plays for the Ankeny Centennial varsity soccer team, as well as Vision Soccer Academy in Waukee. He plans to play college soccer and majoring in exercise science.



Sahithi Shankaiahgari

Sahithi Shankaiahgari is a senior at Valley High School. This is her second year as a member of IYC. She serves as the Director of Philanthropy for her schools student council, World Cultures Club Co President, National Honors Society Member, and All State Iowa High School Speech Association Member. Additionally, she received the Silver Cord Presidential Award for her service. In the future Sahithi plans to attend a 4 year university with an interest in mass communications and journalism.

**Sarah Symonds**

Sarah Symonds is currently participating in her first year with the IYC. She is a freshman at Roosevelt High School in Des Moines. Sarah enjoys spending time with her friends and family, playing soccer, and volunteering with the Blank Park Zoo.

**Shreya Yeturu**

Shreya Yeturu is a senior at Waukee High School. This is her first year in IYC. Shreya participates in Mock Trial and is a member of uVoice, a youth philanthropy group. She holds the position of Marketing Chair in uVoice. Shreya is an adviser for Please Pass The Love's Youth Advisory Board. She enjoys tutoring children, spending time with family, and playing tennis.

**Shriya Magatapalli**

Shriya Magatapalli is a junior at Waukee High School. This is her second year as a member of the Iowa Youth Congress. She takes part in IHSSA Large Group Speech Team and Robotics. In the future, she plans on studying medicine.

**Silvia Aydinyan**

Silvia Aydinyan is a senior at Ames High School in Ames, Iowa. She has served as a member of IYC for two years and is very excited to continue her advocacy. Besides IYC, Silvia is the founder of Students Against Sexual Harassment and Assault at her school, the Midwest Director of Beyond Resolved (an organization for womxn in debate) and a leader of high school and middle school debate. Silvia plans to double major in some type of science and economics at her future college.

**Starr Claussen**

Starr Claussen is a junior at Woodward-Granger High School. This is her first year as an IYC member. She participates in band, choir, and drama. Her future plan is to go to Iowa State University to study hotel management and history.

**Volta Adovor**

Volta Adovor is a junior at Ankeny Centennial High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC. Volta is the captain of her club volleyball team, recipient of the Academic Award, two year recipient of the Soccer leadership award, and the recipient of the "Spirit of Jazz" award at her high school. Additionally, Volta is on her school's Dean's List. Volta participates in many activities: Speech club, student council, volleyball, band, soccer youth group, National Honors Society, Silver cord, and French Club. At this time, she is undecided about her plans after high school.



Xiangheng Li

Xiangheng Li is a senior at Valley High School. This will be his second year participating in IYC. He enjoys volunteering at Genesis Youth Foundation and advocating for human rights related issues. Currently he serves on the Committee on Civil and Human Rights Symposium. At School he serves as the president of Friends Without Borders., facilitator of Community of Racial Equity, and VHS student ambassador. He plans to study economics and international relations in college. As a member of IYC Xiangheng hopes to make impacts on the lives of others, and additionally educate himself more on different youth related issues.

East Region

Photo to Come Soon

Alexander Koch

Alexander Koch is a 10th grader at Mid City High School. This is his first year of IYC.

Photo to Come Soon

Cassidy Cook

Cassidy Cook is going into her junior year of high school at Mid City High School. She will be graduating in May. She is an advocate for bullying prevention laws in Iowa.





Grace Sampson

Grace Sampson is a senior at North Scott High School. This is her second term serving with IYC. In addition to IYC, Grace is involved in student government, president of National Honors Society, a representative of the 4-H county council, a member of North Scott orchestra, the North Scott cheer captain, and a member of the North Scott Singers Choir. In the future, she plans on attending a four year university and obtaining a BS in Environmental Science.

Photo to Come Soon

Haley Humes

Haley Humes is a senior at Pleasant Valley High School. This is her fourth year as a member of IYC. She is passionate about helping individuals with

	<p>disabilities. Haley is the captain of Sparkles Cheer, a cheerleading team for high school students with disabilities, and the program director of ACEing Autism, a tennis program for individuals with disabilities.</p>
<p>Photo to Come Soon</p>	<p>Jake Laufenberg Jake Laufenberg is a junior at North Scott High School in Eldridge, Iowa. This is his first year of being involved with Iowa Youth Congress. Along with IYC, he is the Vice President of the National Honors Society chapter at his high school. In the future he hopes to pursue a career in medicine.</p>
	<p>Jenna Willet Jenna Willet is a senior at North Scott High School. This is her second year as a member of IYC and second year as the regional officer of the East Region. In addition to IYC, she is involved in dance, cheer, choir, theater, mock trial, and National History Day. She serves as secretary of her high schools chapter of the National Honors Society, in addition to serving as a leader in organizing her schools mini Dance Marathon, and treasurer of Lancer Productions.</p>
	<p>Kavya Kalathur Kavya Kalathur is a sophomore at Pleasant Valley High School. This is her first year in IYC. She plays tennis both inside and outside of school. In addition to playing tennis, she is a member of the Quad City Youth Symphony where she plays the viola, part of an all-girls robotics team, which involves working on our own robot in addition to coaching teams of younger girls. She enjoys learning about the world and has represented Iowa in the National Geographic Bee. Kavya also volunteers with kids who have developmental challenges and helps them swim.</p>
<p>Photo to Come Soon</p>	<p>Lily Bert Lily is a sophomore at Mid City High School in Davenport, Iowa. This is her second year as a member of IYC.</p>

**Luke Kotz**

Luke Kotz is a junior at Dubuque Hempstead High School, and is new to IYC this year. He spends his time volunteering through YAPPERS, running cross country, captaining his school's Science Bowl's Team, and watching films by Quentin Tarantino. He plans to attend Princeton for Computer Science in the future.

Photo to Come Soon

Madeline Pineo

Madeline Pineo is a senior at Mid City High School. This is her third year as a member of IYC.

Photo to Come Soon

Matt Calhoun

Matt Calhoun is a sophomore at Mid City High School. Matt is a first year IYC member, but has interacted with members and discussed IYC topics with fellow members prior to starting his term.

**Maia Glover**

Maia Glover is a senior at North Scott High School. She has been a part of IYC for three years. Maia is part of her school's theatre troupe and speech team. She also enjoys Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. Maia plans on going to college and majoring in technical theatre.



Molly Dye

Molly Dye is a junior at Davenport Central High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC and she is very excited to get started. In school, Molly participates in show choir, mock trial, newspaper, and am one of the leaders of the group Girls Learn International. In the future, Molly wants to study medicine with a focus on global health.



Mushroor Kamal

Mushroor Kamal is a senior at Stephen Hempstead High School in Dubuque, Iowa. This is his first year as a member of IYC. In addition to IYC he has received many awards and participates in activities at his school and community. Some of those include: AP Scholar Award, Debate Awards, Presidential Award, Varsity Soccer Letter, hospital volunteering, cross country, debate, Model UN, and Key Club. He plans on attending college to study pre-med with the goal of attending medical school. He wants to become a doctor.



Peyton Seberg

Peyton Seberg is a junior at Assumption High School. This is her first year involved in IYC. In addition to IYC she is involved in Mock Trial, volleyball, and track at her high school. In the future, Peyton has the goal to go to college to become a lawyer and start her own firm. She would like to attend Auburn or Texas Tech.

**Shveta Kalathur**


Shveta Kalathur is a junior at Pleasant Valley High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC. She plays tennis and violin, and is a member of the Quad Cities Youth Symphony. Shveta also enjoys volunteering at the Trinity Hospital, and is a member of an all-girls robotics team that was the Iowa representative at the world championship. Additionally, she helps physically disabled children learn to swim.

**Tremayne Puls**

Tremayne Puls is a senior at the Cascade Junior Senior High School. This is his first year as a member of IYC. He is involved in track and speech. In the future, Tremayne plans to become a teacher.

Iowa City Region**Alexandra Curtu**

Alexandra Curtu is a first year member of IYC. She is a sophomore at Iowa City West High School. She plays volleyball and is very passionate about advocating for youth/teen issues they face in everyday life.

<p>Photo to Come Soon</p>	<p>Alex Wang Alex Wang is a junior at Iowa City West High School. This is his first year of joining IYC. He is very passionate about cross country and track and field, as he loves running. He also likes to get involved in new opportunities. For example he volunteers at IUHC and is planning to try out a few new clubs this year at his school. He is still figuring out his future plans.</p>
<p>Photo to Come Soon</p>	<p>Anika Munjal Anika Munjal is a senior at Cedar Rapids Xavier High School. She has done IYC since her freshman year of high school. She is also involved in Kids on Course AmeriCorps, Girls State, March for our Lives Iowa, Key Club, Show Choir, Tennis, National Honor Society, and National Council on Youth Leadership. Anika plans to major in Political Science and International Relations in college.</p>
 A portrait of Beatrice Kaskie, a young woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a light blue sweater. The background shows a library with bookshelves and a staircase.	<p>Beatrice Kaskie Beatrice Kaskie is a sophomore at Liberty High School and is a first year member of Iowa Youth Congress. She is an active student participating in volleyball, band, Student Senate, Interact Students Helping Out the Community (INSHOC), and science olympiad. She's excited to continue her regular volunteering in her community and transferring her IYC engagement to her participation in school.</p>
<p>Photo to Come Soon</p>	<p>Daniel Song Daniel Song is a senior at Iowa City West High School. Daniel has been a member of IYC for four years. At his school, he founded a chapter of UNICEF, where he is an executive officer. During the summer, Daniel plays baseball as an outfielder and pitcher for the Trojans. Daniel also enjoys volunteering at the local retirement home. He plans on majoring in business in the future.</p>

**Jeffrey Fuchs**

Jeffrey Fuchs is a junior at John F. Kennedy High School. This is his first year of IYC. Jeffrey recently attended the 2019 Speech and Debate National Tournament in Dallas, Texas. In the future, Jeffrey hopes to be a Senator for the state of Iowa.

Photo to Come Soon

Kevin Lu

Kevin Lu is a junior at Iowa City West High School. This is his third year as a member of IYC.

**Kinsey Duwa**

Kinsey Duwa is a senior at Washington High School in Washington, Iowa. This is her first year as a member of IYC. In addition to IYC, she is involved in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Through her school, she has served as a state officer for three years for the Iowa Business Professionals of America. In the future she plans to attend an unknown college to pursue a degree in either business and finance or corporate law.

**Maddie Maley**

Maddie Maley is a junior at Regina High School. This is her first year as an IYC member. She is a member of Dance Marathon, Operation Smile and is a student ambassador.



Natalie Knapp

Natalie Knapp is a senior at Kennedy High School and is very excited to engage in her first year as an IYC member. She is president of Teens Against Human Trafficking at her school and is also involved in activities such as Key Club, Speech and Theatre. She enjoys volunteering with Miracles in Motion, St Lukes Witwer Children's Therapy , and her local youth programs at her Church. In the future, Natalie is planning on majoring in education and criminal justice with a minor in psychology.

Photo to Come Soon

Nikul Patel

Nikul Patel is a senior at Iowa City West High School. This is his second year as a member of IYC. He is a member of his school's UNICEF chapter, the tennis team, and volunteers at the University of Iowa's Children's Hospital. He plans to attend college next year to study economics or political science.



Patrick Taylor

Patrick Taylor is a senior at Iowa City West High School. This is his first year as a member of IYC. At his school, he is the secretary of the Student Senate, as well as the president of the Model UN club and a mentor for the Science Olympiad. He is also a former Iowa State Geographic Bee Champion (2015-2016) and was a top ten finalist nationally in 2015.



Vivian Tracey

Vivian is a junior at Linn- Mar High School. She is a first year member of IYC.



Xinran Liu

Xinran Liu is a junior at Regina High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC and is really excited to take part in IYC. In addition to a member of IYC, Xinran is a student ambassador, Iowa Ideas Conference scholarship winner, and a member of the National Honor Society. She has also been a member of the track team at her school for the past 6 years and plans to continue it after high school. My plan for the future is to study economics or business at university, and then attend law school. She hopes to become a lawyer in the future.



Zach Noonan

Zach Noonan is a senior at Xavier Catholic High School in Cedar Rapids, IA. This is his first year involved in IYC. Zach is an Eagle Scout from Cedar Rapids' Troop 42. He is involved in Mock Trial, show choir, model United Nations, Key Club, Student Council, and is on the National Council of Youth Leadership. He is an alum of the Leadership for Five Seasons Class of 2019 and of the Iowa Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference. He will attend college next year studying pre-law with political science. He hopes to go into law and politics in the future.



Kira Strashko

Kira is a freshman at West Forks High School, and a first year member of IYC. Kira participates in competitive figure skating, and various sports through school. She has volunteered for various organizations including Special Olympics and other local venues.



Nadia Peinke

Nadia Peinke is a senior at Hampton-Dumont CAL. This is her first year participating in IYC. She is on the National Honor Society and is currently in Talent search. In her time outside of school and work she tries to volunteer as much as possible. Nadia plans on attending college for her undergraduate degree in Bio Chem for pre med.

North East Region



Krisha Keeran

Krisha Keeran is a senior at Cedar Falls High School. This is her fourth year as a member of IYC, and is the regional officer for the northeast region. In addition to IYC, Krisha is involved in her school and her community. Last year Krisha and her friend started Club Kids for a Cause with the purpose to allow people to create fundraisers for the people and things they care about. She also is involved in the Science Olympiad and Science Bowl teams at her school. She plans on attending college next year and majoring in biology and compete on a tennis team.

**Mira Keeran**

Mira Keeran is a sophomore at Cedar Falls High School. This is her first year as a member of IYC and she is very excited to learn more about what goes on behind the scenes of passing bills and how the government functions during that process. In addition to IYC, she has played tennis for 4 years and plays competitively in tournaments around the Midwest. Last year Mira and her team made history by making it to state for the first time and placed. Krisha, her sister and I placed 3rd in doubles at state. In addition to tennis, Mira does volunteer work in her community. One of her favorite volunteer projects include making blankets for babies at Allen Hospital NICU because she felt that it would add some love to their stay at the hospital. In the future, Mira hopes to be a neonatologist because she loves babies.

South West Region**Aidan Morgan**

Aidan Morgan is a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs Iowa. This is his first year as a member of IYC.

**Kayla Whitworth**

Kayla Whitworth is a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School, and is studying Sociology at Iowa Western Community College through an Early College Academy program. This is her second year in Iowa Youth Congress and is also involved in multiple extracurriculars. Some of those activities include: National History Day, National Honors Society, cofounder of the ALHS Recycling Club, feature editor of the ALHS Echoes, member of the Buddy program, and a Senior Kitati kid at the YMCA Camp Kitaki.



Kylee Koenig

Kylee Koenig is a sophomore at Abraham Lincoln High School in IYC. Kylee is a staff member with the Air Force JROTC at her school and is also involved in journalism. She plans to go to Iowa Western and University of Nebraska Omaha to earn a degree in Cyber Security.



Margaret Grover

Margaret Grover is a 10th grader at Abraham Lincoln High School. This is her first year participating in Iowa Youth Congress. She is also a member of Girl Scouts of America and National History Day. Margaret wants to attend college to get a teaching degree and then become a teacher.



Molly Higgins

Molly Higgins is a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs. This is her second year of IYC. She is also involved with speech, choir, student council, Key Club, NHS, and has made All State speech twice. She is interested in studying political science or economics in college.



Sabrina Feinhold

Sabrina Fiendhold is a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School, and is a first year member of IYC. Sabrina plans on studying political science and dreams of becoming a political leader in her country or community.



Sarah King

Sarah King is a senior at Abraham Lincoln High School, and a first year member of IYC. At her school she participates in activities such as speech and Mock Trial, as well as acting as the secretary of her chapter of National Honor Society, and co-editor in chief of her school's online newspaper. Sarah is interested in pursuing a career as a diplomat with an emphasis on environmental issues.

West Region



Annie Ankenbauer

Annie Ankenbauer is a junior at Coon Rapids-Bayard High School. This year is her first year as a member of IYC. She is also a member of 4-H Dedham Go Getters. She is active in her school choir and speech. She volunteers every year at summer school. She was also the president of her 4-H club. In the future she wanted to be a biologist after high school and college.

**Abigail Brooks**

Abigail Brooks is a sophomore at Audubon High School. This is her first year as an Iowa Youth Congress member. She is the Regional Officer for the West Region. She also is the historian from her 4-H club. She is a very active participant of 4-H, FFA, Youth Committee, livestock Committee, Sports, Band, and Student Senate.

**Dennis Jackson**

Dennis Jackson is a senior at Audubon High School. The 2019-2020 term is his first year of IYC. He attended American legion Hawkeye Boys state and is an Eagle Scout. He plans to major in Political Science when he attends college.

**Jill Denny**

Jill Denny is a sophomore at Audubon High School. This is her first year as a member of Iowa Youth Congress. In addition to her participation in IYC, she is an active member of 4-H, FFA, and her high school band.